

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 DEAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 JUSE-00

NSAE-00 SNM-02 TRSE-00 USIA-15 NSC-05 OES-05 OMB-01

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FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7032

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

UNCLAS THE HAGUE 5843

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SNAR, NL

SUBJ: DELAY IN CONSIDERATION OF DUTCH DRUG LAW

REF: THE HAGUE 2577

1. DEBATE ON NEW DUTCH DRUG LAW, ORIGINALLY ANTICIPATED BEFORE SUMMER 1975 RECESS, IS NOT NOW EXPECTED BEFORE NEXT MARCH. POSSIBILITY EXISTS THAT STILL FURTHER POSTPONEMENT WOULD JEOPARDIZE CONSIDERATION BY THIS SITTING OF PARLIAMENT.

2. ONE CAUSE OF DELAY IS PRESSURE OF OTHER BUSINESS. ANOTHER IS SLOWNESS OF HEALTH MINISTRY IN PREPARING ANSWERS TO WRITTEN PARLIAMENTARY QUESTIONS.

3. IT IS HARD TO SAY WHO BENEFITS FROM DELAY UNTIL MARCH. ON THE ONE HAND, THE PROPONENTS OF LEGALIZED CANNABIS ARE BECOMING BOLDER. ON NOVEMBER 1, 1,400 PEOPLE MARCHED ON PARLIAMENT, SMOKED HASH AND RAFFLED IT IN FULL VIEW OF UNCONCERNED POLICEMEN. THEIR LEADER PRESENTED TO CHAIRMAN OF SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON DRUGS A PETITION ADVOCATING LEGALIZATION.

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ON THE OTHER HAND, THERE IS A BODY OF OPINION DEVELOPING AMONG

CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTIES THAT THE NEW LAW IS TOO LIBERAL,
EXPECIALLY IN ITS DOWNGRADING OF CANNABIS USE TO MISDEMEANOR.

4. ONE THING IS CERTAIN. IF THE LEGISLATION IS NOT ACTED UPON
BEFORE THE PRESENT PARLIAMENT IS DISMISSED FOR NEW ELCTIONS,
THE PRINCIPAL BENEFICIARIES WILL BE THE DRUG TRAFFICKERS.
THE LENIENT SENTENCING PROVISIONS OF THE OLD LAW WILL STILL
APPLY, MAKING AMSTERDAM A CONTINUING SAFE HAVEN FOR THE PEOPLE
WHO HAVE MADE HER EUROPE'S PREMIER DRUG MARKET.
GOULD

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